(b) the quantity of such coal imported by SAIL and the amount spent on it during the last three years; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by the Government to make available sufficient quantity of indigenous low ash content coal to SAIL?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (SHRI SONTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) Yes, Sir. The Bureau of Industrial Costs and Prices has recommended use of 50% imported low ash coal in blend in SAIL plants instead of 10-30% use prevailing in 1987-88/ 1989-90. It has also recommended increase in use of imported coal in blend from 30-50%, as a post-modernisation measure in SAIL plants, for increasing efficiency and productivity.

(b) Quantity and approximate C&F value of 'Low Ash Metallurgical Coking Coal' imported by SAIL during the last three years are as follows:-

Year	*Quantity (Million tonnes)*	*Approx. C&F value (in Rupees)*
1988-89	3.740	329.2 crores
1989-90	3.748	426.8 crores
1990-91	4.493	543.8 crores

(c) Every year all the quantities of coking coal indigenously produced are consumed in the steel sector; imports being resorted to meet only the balance requirement both in quantitative and qualitative terms. Efforts are constantly made to augment the production and washing of the raw coking coal indigenously. Government closely monitors the production of raw coking coal, washed coal and timely despatches to the plants with a view to ensuring that supplies are effected as planned.

Economic sanctions against South Africa

3883. SHRIMATI MALINI BHATTACHARYA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that apartheid policy is still being followed in South Africa despite the formal abolition of the 'Pillars of apartheid' in that country;

(b) whether the Government propose to raise this issue at the international level so as to prevent withdrawal of economic sanctions against South Africa;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the Government have taken note of the protest by the African National Congress over the lifting of economic sanctions by the US against South Africa; and

(e) if so, reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) At the forthcoming meeting of the Commonwealth Committee of Foreign Ministers on Southern Africa to be held in New Delhi in September 1991, the Government intends to take the stand that it would be premature to lift economic sanctions at this stage and to act in concert with the ANC to clearly spell out conditions under which that can be done.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The Government is in sympathy with the African National Congress, which considers the lifting of economic sanctions by the US against South Africa as premature.

Illegal Mining

3884. SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether illegal mining of different mines is on constant increase; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the remedial steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) and (b) Sporadic instances of illegal mining of some minerals do come to notice from time to time. As and when instances of illegal mining come to notice, appropriate measures are taken by the State Governments.

Waiting list for New Telephone Connections in Agra

3885. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of persons on the waiting list for telephone connections in Agra till date, category-wise;

(b) the number of telephone connections allotted during 1988-89, 1989-90, 1990-91 category-wise;

(c) the time by which the waiting list is likely to be cleared;

(d) whether there is any scheme to increase the capacity of existing telephone exchanges or install new exchanges in Agra in near future in order to clear the long waiting list; and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) The number of persons on waiting list for telephone connections in Agra as on 31-7-1991 are as under:-

OYT	*NON-OYT*		*TOTAL*
	General	*Special*	
517	9353	1075	10945

(b) The number of telephone connections allotted during 1988-89, 1989-90 and 1990-91 are as under:-

	OYT	*Non-OYT*	
		General	*Special*
1988-89	17	100	5
1989-90	11	237	48
1990-91	109	801	61

(c) The waiting list is planned to be cleared by 1995.

(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) The following scheme has been drawn to increase the capacity of existing telephone exchanges or install new telephone exchanges in Agra in near future:-

5000 lines crossbar type exchange and 3500 lines electronic exchange are planned to be commissioned in 1991-92. [*Translation*]

Shortage of Postmen in Delhi

3886. SHRI ARVIND NETAM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is shortage of postmen in each zone of Delhi several postal Divisions;

(b) if so, the measure taken/proposed to be taken in this regard;

(c) the number of distribution areas for which complaints regarding non-distribution of dak in-time have been received; and

(d) the action being taken for the proper distribution of dak?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) There are approximately 89 vacancies in Postmen cadre in Delhi Postal Circle which have mostly arisen on account of creation of 86 posts of postmen in 1990-91.

(b) Action is under way to fill up the vacancies.

(c) 10 (Ten).

(d) Most of these areas are newly developed colonies situated in the outlying areas. The delivery arrangements in these areas have been strengthened and delivery work is subjected to constant monitoring.

[*English*]

Conference on Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace

3887. SHRI CHANDRA JEET YADAV: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are approaching the U.N. for a fresh initiative to hold the Conference on Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI MADHAVSINH SOLANKI): (a) and (b) The Government of India has not mooted any fresh initiative in this matter. India has consistently asserted that the purpose of the proposed UN Conference should be to implement the 1971 UN Declaration on the Indian Ocean as a Zone of Peace (IOZOP) and that the objective of the Conference is to secure the elimination of Great Power military presence in the Indian Ocean. Accordingly, the participation of the Great Powers and the